

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Tariff Hearings Start in January

Tariff revision hearings will be started January 7th, according to plans announced by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Hearings on Schedule 7, agricultural products and provisions, have been scheduled by the Committee for January 24, 25 and 28. As the annual convention of the canners will be held the week of January 21-26, it is hoped that arrangements can be made by which the canning interests may appear before the Committee at some other more convenient date.

This means that the canning industry should at once prepare to present evidence to the Committee on the adequacy of existing rates, looking toward both the maintenance of rates that afford satisfactory protection and the revision upward of such rates as are now inadequate.

Evidence should likewise be assembled with respect to any provisions in the present tariff that need amendment in order to make the prescribed duties effective.

In view of the prospect of tariff revision following the presidential election, there was printed in the Information Letter for August 11 a compilation of the rates of duty on canned foods under the Tariff Act of 1922, with citations to the paragraphs of the Act in which these rates are prescribed. The compilation is reprinted in this issue of the Letter so that all members may have it at hand in studying the situation and preparing for the hearings.

Arrangements are under way for the compilation of statistics on imports under the present tariff law and earlier laws.

These will show the extent to which the domestic industry encounters competition from foreign products. Individual canners are in position to know how such competition affects their own business, and to accumulate evidence as to what changes in rates are desirable.

Owing to the large number of items involved, the Association's executives are anxious to have the assistance of the membership in preparing properly for the hearings. The date of the hearing is earlier than anticipated, and it is important that the industry take prompt steps. It will be appreciated if individual members will get in touch with the Association's headquarters and express their views on the subject.

In its notice regarding the hearings the Committee requests that witnesses file two copies of their briefs in advance of the date of hearing, and suggests that the briefs should cover the following:

1. Items and paragraphs in which interested; changes in duties recommended; reasons for such recommendations.
2. Importance of industry; development of industry and future prospects; number of employees affected.
3. Domestic production costs and wages and comparable costs and wages in foreign countries; also, if available, information concerning dumping, unfair competition, or other practices aimed to impair or destroy domestic industries.
4. Source of imports, volume, and prices at which offered.
5. Suggestions as to changes of phraseology or classification in the existing law.
6. Suggestions as to administrative features of the existing law with a view to their betterment.

Following is the compilation of rates of duty under the present tariff:

Product	Rate	Paragraph
Ments: Fresh, prepared or preserved, n. s. p. f.	20% ad val.	706
Milk: Condensed or evaporated in hermetically sealed containers, unsweetened	1c per lb.	708
Condensed or evaporated in hermetically sealed containers, sweetened	1½c per lb.	708
Poultry: Prepared or preserved in any manner, n. s. p. f. ..	35% ad val.	712
Salmon: Pickled, salted, smoked, kippered, or otherwise prepared or preserved	25% ad val.	718
Sardines and other fish except shellfish: By whatever name known, packed in oil or in oil and other substances..	30% ad val.	720
Crab meat: Packed in ice or frozen or prepared or preserved in any manner	15% ad val.	721
Fish roe: Caviar and other fish roe for food purposes packed in ice or frozen, prepared or preserved by the addition of salt in any amount or by other means	30% ad val.	721

Apples: Prepared or preserved otherwise than by drying or evaporating	2½c per lb.	734
Apricots: Prepared or preserved otherwise than by drying or in brine	35% ad val.	735
Berries: Prepared or preserved otherwise than by drying, evaporating, or packing in brine	35% ad val.	736
Cherries: In natural state, sulphured, or in brine	2c per lb.	737
Maraschino cherries, or cherries prepared or preserved in any manner	40% ad val.	737
Figs: Prepared or preserved in any manner	35% ad val.	740
Peaches and pears: Prepared or preserved otherwise than by drying, evaporating or packing in brine	35% ad val.	743
Pineapple: Prepared or preserved otherwise than candied, crystallized or glace	2c per lb.	746
Plums and prunes: Prepared or preserved otherwise than by drying or packing in brine	35% ad val.	747
Jellies, jam, etc.: All jellies, jams, marmalades and fruit butters	35% ad val.	748
All other fruits: Fruits in their natural state, prepared or preserved, n. s. p. f., including mixtures of two or more fruits	35% ad val.	749
Mushrooms: Fresh, dried or preserved	43% ad val.	766
Peas: Prepared or preserved otherwise than by drying	2c per lb.	767
Tomatoes: Prepared or preserved in any manner, except tomato paste	15% ad val.	770
Tomato paste:	40% ad val.	770
All other vegetables: Pickled, or packed in salt, brine, oil or prepared or preserved in any other way, n. s. p. f.	35% ad val.	775
Soup: Soups, pastes, balls, puddings, hash and mixtures of vegetables, meats, or fish, n. s. p. f.	35% ad val.	775
Whole pimientos: Packed in brine or in oil, or prepared or preserved in any manner	6c per lb.	779
Shrimp, lobster and other shellfish: Fresh, frozen packed in ice or prepared or preserved in any manner, n. s. p. f. Free		1662

n. s. p. f.: not specially provided for.

Get Ready to Report Stocks

Statistics on stocks of corn, pea and tomato on hand at the close of the year will be of the greatest value to the industry if they are made available at the earliest possible date. For this reason, canners are earnestly requested to prepare to report their stocks promptly upon receipt of the schedules that will be mailed out the first week of January.

The instructions in the schedule that will be sent out state that canners are to report all stocks of canned corn, peas and tomatoes held in their canneries and warehouses (including stocks held for future delivery), and stocks that have been shipped to dealers on a consignment basis. The schedule calls for the number of cases of Nos. 1's, 2's, 2½'s, 3's, 5's, 10's, and of special sizes including glass jars.

With this indication of the information that will be called for in the schedules, all canners should be able to prepare for filling out the returns so that little or no time will be lost.

Reduced Railroad Rates for Annual Convention

Reduced rates to members and dependent members of their families of a fare and a half for the round trip to Chicago for the Annual Convention the week of January 21, 1929, have been granted by all of the passenger associations.

To secure the benefit of these rates, identification certificates must be presented to the ticket agent. Under the traffic regulations it is necessary, in order to use these certificates for the purchase of tickets at the reduced rates, that the applicant be a member of the National Canners Association, National Food Brokers Association, Canning Machinery and Supplies Association, or National Wholesale Grocers Association, but this provision includes officers, stockholders and dependent members of the families of each member, officer or stockholder.

Tickets for these reduced rates will be on sale by all passenger associations in the United States and Canada.

Such tickets will be on sale in a greater part of the territory from January 17th to 23rd inclusive, with a final return limit of January 31st; in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming they will be on sale from January 16th to 22nd inclusive, with a final return limit of February 1st; in Montana, Southern Idaho and Utah they will be on sale from January 15th to 21st inclusive, with a final return limit of February 2nd; in Arizona, Northern Idaho, British Columbia, Nevada, Oregon and Washington they will be on sale from January 15th to 21st inclusive, with a final return limit of February 4th; in California they will be on sale from January 14th to 20th inclusive, with a final return limit of February 4th.

In addition to the special rate tickets with the return limits above described, members can secure tickets with a return limit of thirty days from date of sale at a fare and three-fifths. Identification certificates are necessary to obtain these tickets and purchasers must indicate to ticket agents which rate is desired.

Return tickets must be validated in Chicago before the beginning of the return journey, and passengers must travel the same route as coming except that from stations in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia the usual diverse routes west of Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans will apply.

Proposed Legislation Affecting Canners

A bill (H. R. 14476) has been introduced by Delegate Sutherland of Alaska which would amend the Alaska Fisheries Act to provide that "it shall be unlawful to can salt, ice, freeze or

preserve in any manner for sale as food for human consumption any salmon more than forty-eight hours after it has been killed."

Inspection of poultry and poultry products before being allowed to enter into any slaughtering, packing, canning or similar establishment, or after they have been slaughtered at such establishments, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture, would be authorized by a bill (H. R. 14470) introduced in the House. The inspection provisions would not apply to poultry slaughtered by any farmer on the farm and sold and transported in interstate commerce, nor to retail dealers in poultry and poultry products supplying their customers.

Truck Crop Markets

The most interesting development of the week ending December 1 was the active opening of the season for Mexican vegetables and various truck crops in southern Texas, according to the U. S. Market News Service. String beans, peas and tomatoes began to arrive from Mexico. Cabbage, carrots and spinach were moving from Texas. Tomatoes also were being received from Cuba and the Bahamas, with light arrivals of early potatoes from Bermuda and southern Florida.

Cold weather was experienced in some of the northern States, with temperature as low as 6 degrees in Maine. Snow was reported in Colorado and Idaho.

Shipments continued to show their usual seasonal decrease. The week's output of 14,600 cars of 24 principal fruits and vegetables was just about the same volume as a year ago and was 2,300 less than the preceding week. The only products registering gains recently are carrots, cauliflower, peas and citrus fruit.

In the order of their importance, products which totaled a thousand or more cars last week were potatoes, apples, oranges and grapefruit. Movement of grapefruit was 50 per cent heavier than during late November, 1927. About 860 cars came from Florida and 100 from Texas. Orange forwardings increased to 2,245 cars for the seven-day period. California was credited with 1,600 and Florida with slightly over 600. Grape shipments dropped again to 870 cars, compared with 425 a year ago.

About 190 cars of carrots moved from California. New York originated only 28 cars. Cauliflower shipments increased to 270 cars, nearly all of them from California. Movement of string beans from Florida was very light, only 43 cars. Limited

receipts were reported from Mexico. About 10 carloads of green peas arrived from the west coast of Mexico. Shipments from the Imperial Valley of California increased to 85 cars. An abundant crop of spinach is expected in southern Texas this winter, and first cars are now moving. About 28,000 acres are planted to spinach. Shipments of tomatoes from California dropped to 50 cars, while Florida increased to 50. Imports from Cuba, Mexico and the Bahamas amounted to a similar number. The Bahama tomato crop may equal if not exceed the 189,000 bushels exported last season.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Nov. 25- Dec. 1, 1928	Nov. 18-24 1928	Nov. 27- Dec. 3, 1927	Total this season to Dec. 1	Total last season to Dec. 8	Total last season
Apples, total	2,445	3,264	2,331	90,192	99,519	93,091
Eastern	971	1,341	997	45,797	35,105	44,412
Western	1,474	2,023	1,654	44,395	34,414	48,679
Cabbage:						
1929 season	3	6	15	11	61	32,043
1928 season	618	738	443	32,043	30,973	39,067
Carrots:						
1929 season	195	166	(a)	937	(a)	6,212
1928 season	42	51	(a)	6,212	(a)	6,932
Cauliflower	271	237	167	2,398	2,398	6,046
Cucumbers	9	24	15	7,447	8,167	8,173
Grapefruit:						
Domestic	979	604	696	5,110	4,563	16,172
Imports	3	1	1	320	1,268	2,267
Green peas:						
Domestic	84	63	69	271	237	4,072
Imports	9	0	3	9	3	967
Mixed deciduous fruits ...	11	17	10	6,355	5,356	5,406
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	395	466	479	30,936	32,990	35,930
Imports	5	1	1	6	4	161
Pears	99	130	94	23,146	18,029	18,744
Peppers	4	4	199	8	334	3,351
Spinach:						
1929 season	175	242	232	555	1,127	10,558
1928 season	22	55	9	10,559	9,689	9,635
String beans:						
1929 season	48	67	166	161	830	6,629
Imports	1	1	2	4	2	4
1928 season	11	29	1	6,629	6,479	6,481
Tomatoes:						
1929 season	49	25	26	116	44	30,902
Imports	51	26	60	78	60	5,423
1928 season	69	183	45	30,002	32,615	32,668

(a) Unavailable

Truck Crop Prospects

The frost of November 22 caused a heavy loss to fall beans and cucumbers in Florida and some damage to other tender vegetables including peppers and eggplant. The south Florida tomato crop escaped injury. There was no appreciable damage in the state to the hardier truck crops, including cabbage, celery and lettuce. Citrus was uninjured, the cold weather being beneficial to this crop. The crop of fall vegetables was already short this year and as a result of the recent frost, shipments of beans, cucumbers, peppers and eggplant for the next six weeks will be very light.

The spinach acreage in Texas is estimated at 28,800 acres, an increase of approximately 15 per cent over last season. Of the total acreage planted it is estimated that approximately 68 per cent is being grown under irrigation. The growing condition of the crop in general is very good with the exception of several thousand acres in the Winter Garden district.

Winter spinach acreage in Louisiana, according to a preliminary estimate, is 2,160 acres, in North Carolina 100 acres, and in South Carolina 400 acres. With 28,800 acres in Texas this makes a winter spinach acreage of 31,460 as compared with 28,250 acres in 1927-28.

Production of pimientos for canning in Georgia in 1928 is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at 7,920 tons compared with 5,994 tons in 1927. The California production for the 1928-29 season is estimated at 12,109 tons as compared with 10,470 tons in 1927-28.

Larger Research Appropriations Urged

The request of twenty-one farm and allied organizations for larger appropriations for fundamental research in the Department of Agriculture was presented to the House Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations at a hearing on Wednesday, December 5. The Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation acted as spokesman for the group, which has had conferences from time to time with President Coolidge, the Director of the Budget, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Director of Scientific Work in the Department of Agriculture.

President Coolidge in his message to Congress on Tuesday stated:

"I can not too strongly commend, in the field of fact finding, the research work of the Department of Agriculture and the State experiment stations. The department now receives annually \$4,000,000 more for research than in 1921. In addition, the funds paid to the States for experimentation purposes under the Purnell Act constitute an annual increase in Federal payments to State agricultural experiment stations of \$2,400,000 over the amount appropriated in 1921. The program of support for research may wisely be continued and expanded."

Business Conditions

Industrial production, as reflected by the activity in steel plants, was greater during the week ended December 1 than in either the preceding week or the corresponding period of last

year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The general level of wholesale prices showed no change from the preceding week but was about 1 per cent higher than a year ago.

Loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks reached a new high point during the week. Interest rates on time money showed no change from the preceding week but were considerably higher than at this time a year earlier. Prices for stocks made a new record during the week, while brokers' loans were higher than at any other previous time. Interest rates on call loans were higher than in either the previous week or the same week of last year.

Freight-car loadings covering the latest period were considerable heavier than in the corresponding period of last year. Business failures were less numerous than in either the previous week or the same period of 1927.

	CAR LOADINGS			
	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended November 24	1,025,690	397,333	259,715	368,737
Preceding week	1,059,761	394,329	261,769	397,109
Corresponding week, 1927	840,612	315,629	225,629	299,355
Corresponding week, 1928	937,844	326,167	229,102	382,575

Fresh Pea Standards Issued

U. S. standards for fresh peas (1928) have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, copies of which are obtainable from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Spanish Tariff Revision Postponed

The revision of the Spanish tariff which was to become effective on January 1, 1929, has been postponed for nine months, during which period the Ministry of National Economy is authorized to establish certain temporary second column rates by the terms of a royal decree just issued by the Spanish Government, according to a cable received by the Department of Commerce. Just what these temporary rates which are to go into effect on January next will be, is still in doubt.

Since many conventional rates (i. e., treaty rates which are lower than the second column rates) are expected to be abolished on January 1, 1929, local reports express the probability of an automatic increase in the duties on many articles imported into Spain, unless the temporary rates which go into force on January 1, 1929, are made as low as the present conventional rates.

It is believed likely that the temporary rates as actually fixed will be somewhere between the present conventional rates and the higher second column rates.

Italian Canned Peeled Tomato Pack Smaller This Year

The cannery industry is now very active in Italy preparing its leading product, canned peeled tomatoes and tomato paste, according to information recently received from the American Consul at Naples. The production of canned peeled tomatoes is much below last year owing to the small tomato crop, especially in other than the Naples district, which has caused outside canneries to buy tomatoes in the Naples market.

The trade in preserved tomato products with the United States, the leading consumer, however, is at a considerably restricted level as compared with last year. The reasons for this reduced trade are stated in Naples to be the large stocks in the United States remaining on hand from last year, and the high price of the Italian product this year resulting from the poor crop. However, manufacturers state that in October they received increased orders from America and this seems to be borne out by the increased exportation of canned tomatoes to the United States.

The factories are very busy manufacturing the "double-extract" tomato paste, especially for consumption in Northern Italy, where this product appears to be in increasing demand.

Canadian Regulations on Marking and Numbering Packages

The following official interpretation of the instructions contained in Circular No. 666-C of June 9, 1928, effective August 1, relative to the marks and numbers on invoices and way bills and also on packages, has been obtained by the American Commercial Attache at Ottawa from the Canadian customs authorities, for the guidance of American exporters to Canada:

"Goods imported into Canada in packages in carload or less-than-carload lots are required to have marks and numbers on packages, and those marks and numbers shown on waybills and on invoices so as to indicate clearly the contents of each package. Perishable goods are exempt, and also fresh and dried fruits, nuts, butter, eggs, cheese, fish, fresh and smoked meats, lard, vegetables, milk, and cream.

"In the case of shipments of goods in large quantities of packages, each package containing similar goods of the same quantity and value, to one consignee, and each package having

thereon words describing goods and the goods described in the same words on invoices, the regulations are deemed to be complied with if the following notation shows in marks-and-numbers column on invoice: marks on packages correspond with the terms used in the column herein headed 'Quantities and Description of Goods.'

"Collectors of customs have been instructed to pass all shipments of dried fruits and are being instructed to pass carload shipments of canned fruits. Note, however, that dried fruits are exempt but canned fruits are not exempt from marking regulations. Consecutive numbering is not required but packages must be marked and numbered."

The Commissioner of Customs states that all shipments received after November 15 not complying with circular No. 666-C, must go to warehouse for examination and appraisal.

Latvian Canned Fish Exports

The fish canning industry which has been carried on in Latvia for many years, is now rapidly recovering from the effects of the war, according to information received from the American Trade Commissioner at Riga, Latvia. Exports during the past three years were as follows: 1925, 180 short tons valued at \$138,000; 1926, 317 tons valued at \$256,928; 1927, 569 tons valued at \$522,662.

The chief countries importing Latvian canned fish in order of their importance are: United States, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Lithuania, and Soviet Russia, and efforts are being made to expand the market to include the Balkan States, South American and the Far East.

The Riga canning industry alone put on the market, before the war, goods valued at approximately \$2,500,000.

Trend of Grocery Chain Store Sales

In October the sales of grocery chain stores were 20.1 per cent greater than in October, 1927, according to reports to the Federal Reserve Board from 34 firms. These firms reported 29,154 stores in 1927 and 29,860 in 1928, and the increase in sales reflects in part the establishment of additional stores.

New Laboratory Circular Published

With this issue of the Information Letter is mailed a copy of Laboratory Circular 16-L, "Respiration in Fruits and Vegetables," which will be of special interest to canners who have

made inquiries with respect to the feasibility of preserving foods by canning in nitrogen or other inert gases.

Regulations Issued Under New Standard Container Law

Growers who use baskets which are illegal under the Standard Container Act of 1928 should dispose of such baskets prior to November 1, 1929, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced in connection with regulations covering administration of the act.

The act applies to baskets in both intrastate and interstate commerce. Growers are advised by the Department to regulate their purchases so that all nonstandard baskets will be disposed of before November 1, 1929.

Another effect of the law, in the opinion of the Solicitor for the Department, is to make inoperative all state laws fixing weights per bushel for fruits and vegetables, when such commodities are sold in baskets meeting its requirements. This means that no State law which is in any way in conflict with the Federal Act, either in the matter of prescribed weights or dimension specifications, can be enforced as to fruits and vegetables sold in hampers and baskets which comply with that act.

The Standard Container Act of 1928, passed during the last session of Congress, fixes standards for hampers, round stave baskets and splint baskets for fruits and vegetables, and for other purposes. Administration of the law is in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which bureau is also administering the act of 1916 to fix standards for Climax baskets for grapes and other fruits and vegetables, and to fix standards for baskets and other containers for small fruits, berries, and vegetables, and for other purposes.

Copies of the regulations which define the capacity and appearance of containers, tolerances and variations may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

New Varieties of Fruit Available

The New York State Fruit Testing Association announces that it has available for distribution at about cost, a number of new varieties of fruits developed at the Geneva experiment station. The stock available includes 14 apple varieties, 5 pears, 6 cherries, 2 nectarines, 8 plums, 1 peach, 2 raspberries, 4 strawberries, 1 large-fruited elderberry and grapes. A descriptive catalogue can be obtained from Mr. H. L. King, manager of the Association at Geneva.

Publications of Interest to Canners

Black-leg Infection.—On the basis of experiments reported in Technical Bulletin No. 137 of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, it is recommended that cabbage and brussels sprouts seed be soaked 25 minutes in water at 50°C as the most satisfactory protection against black-leg infection. It is further recommended that this work be carried out under some system such as the central treating station plan and not by individual farmers at home. Copies of the 58-page bulletin on the seed treatment of black-leg disease can be obtained by writing to the Station at Geneva.

Tomato Experiments.—The Pennsylvania State College Experiment Station has issued as bulletin No. 227 a 27-page illustrated pamphlet giving the results of experiments in tomato production at that station. The bulletin covers such items as soils and fertilizers, starting of plants, containers, training, disease and insect control, etc.

Raspberry Pruning.—A bulletin on the relation of season of pruning out old Cuthbert raspberry canes to the amount of winter injury has been issued by the experiment station at Puyallup, Washington.

Strawberry Pests.—Circular 168, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Columbia, Missouri, describes the various insect pests attacking strawberries, and furnishes directions for their control.

Inoculation of Legumes.—Farmer's Bulletin No. 1496, issued by the Department of Agriculture, presents information on the inoculation of legumes and non-legumes with nitrogen-fixing and other bacteria.

Kernel Density and Corn Quality.—The Department of Agriculture has issued as Technical Bulletin No. 97 the results of experiments to determine the relation of kernel density to quality in different varieties of corn. This is a further contribution by C. W. Culpepper and C. A. Magoon in their study of the physical and chemical characteristics which give to the existing varieties of corn their distinctive properties. The bulletin gives a bibliography of literature on the subject.